

31897. ERAGROSTIS ABYSSINICA (Jacq.) Schrad.**Teff.**

From the Transvaal, South Africa, at an elevation of 5,000 feet. Presented by Prof. J. Burt Davy, government agrostologist and botanist, Transvaal Department of Agriculture, Pretoria. Received September 30, 1911.

"This is one of my most valuable introductions into South Africa, and I am anxious that it should receive attention in the Southern and Southwestern States as a hay crop.

"Its great value lies in the rapidity of its growth and maturity (2 to 2½ months), and I have heard of a crop having been grown near Bloemfontein with only 4 inches of rain.

"Being sensitive to frost it is only suitable for regions of summer rainfall, which may partly account for the fact that it never 'took' among the farmers of California, where I introduced it many years ago." (Davy.)

31898 and 31899.

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Seeds of the following:

31898. ACACIA KIRKII Oliver.

Distribution.—The highlands of the Batoka country in Lourenco Marques, on the east coast of Africa.

31899. CAILLIEA NUTANS (Pers.) Skeels.

(*Mimosa nutans* Pers. 1807, Synopsis Plantarum, vol. 2, p. 266.)

(*Cailliea dichrostachys* Guill. and Perr. 1830-1833, Florae Senegambiae Tentamen, vol. 1, p. 240.)

(*Dichrostachys nutans* Benth. 1842, The Journal of Botany, vol. 4, p. 353.)

The seeds of this South African leguminous shrub were received under the name *Dichrostachys nutans*. The generic name *Dichrostachys* was published in 1834 by Wight and Arnott (Prodromus Florae Peninsulae Indiae Orientalis, vol. 1, p. 271) with one species, *D. cinerea*, based on *Mimosa cinerea* L. In 1833, however, Guillemin, Perrottet, and Richard had published the genus *Cailliea* with one species, *C. dichrostachys*, based on *Mimosa nutans* Pers., which is considered to be congeneric with *Mimosa cinerea* L. In establishing the genus *Cailliea* the authors used for the specific name of their plant, *dichrostachys*, which had been used by De Candolle (Prodromus, vol. 2, 1825, p. 445) for a section of the genus *Desmanthus* but which was not published as a generic name until 1834. The earlier generic and specific names are both here restored.

Cailliea nutans is found on the west coast of Africa from Sierra Leone southward to Angola and on the east coast from Abyssinia southward to Mozambique.

"Both of these are shrubs or small trees and the pods are eaten by game and stock, much as is the case with the mesquite of the Southwest. The wood of *Dichrostachys nutans* (*Cailliea nutans*) is very hard and durable and is much valued in termite-infested regions for fence posts, in spite of its usually crooked habit of growth. It is known as *Sikkelbosch* or *Krul-peul*.

"Both bushes are native of the warm, dry middle veld below 4,000 feet and are usually found in sandy or gravelly soils in regions where the rainfall is from 20 to 25 inches, falling in summer." (Davy.)